

For Full Integration

Douglass Speedup Sought

A proposal to integrate Douglass School completely in September, 1967, will be presented to the Columbia Board of Education at its Feb. 13 meeting by the parents of Douglass school children and other interested persons.

The board announced recently that the fifth and sixth grades at Douglass would be discontinued, leaving kindergarten through fourth grade classes still open.

The proposal was decided upon at the completion of a discussion between Dr. Robert C.

Shaw, superintendent of schools, and about 150 interested persons yesterday at St. Paul's AME Church.

"The school board will continue phasing out the Douglass School educational program but they want to gauge their speed by the number of requests for transfer received by the board from Douglass School parents," Dr. Shaw stated.

"If the school board realizes this is a bad situation, why do they need to wait for requests?" James Rollins, University stu-

dent and chairman of the meeting, asked.

"The board should realize the wrong that exists and work for the sake of the children and not throw the burden onto the parents or wait for the parents to initiate changes," Harold Holliday Jr., who invited Dr. Shaw to the discussion, said.

"Segregated schools are not equal no matter what the caliber of the teachers or facilities. The Supreme Court already has said this and the board should not need to have parents tell them again," Dr. William S.

Allen, University associate professor of history, said.

"The board welcomes everyone interested to any board meeting and is willing to discuss any suggestions. However, if we try to move too fast, our efforts may do more of a disservice by overcrowding schools," Dr. Shaw said.

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"Some classrooms would have 40 or even 50 pupils if the remaining pupils from Douglass were transferred to other schools," he added.

George Brooks, 1006 Bellevue Ct., referred to a book published in 1966 by the U.S. Department of Health, Education & Welfare entitled "Equality of Educational Opportunity," which states that pupils who transfer to integrated schools have a difficult adjustment period and their grades often drop.

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"Therefore, I think pupils should get into a mixed situation at the earliest possible time and that would seem to be the kindergarten level," Brooks said.

Holliday, in answer to a statement by Dr. Shaw that 28 percent of the pupils in the Douglass area still would be attending Douglass School in September, 1967, said, "This 28 percent represents more than 200 students who are at an impressionable age going to a still-segregated school 13 years after the law has outlawed it."